



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

April 12, 2016
Municipal Center, Conference Room A
7:00 p.m.

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GRAFTON, MA
2016 JUN 23 AM 11 12

CALL TO ORDER

A regular Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present: Jennifer Thomas, Bruce Spinney, Dennis Flynn, Brook Padgett, Tim McInerney, Doug Willardson and Laura St.John-Dupuis. Absent: Craig Dauphinais.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote to Sign Town Warrant Ballot

Mr. McInerney stated that the Town Warrant Ballot is for the debt exclusion ballot vote. The Fire Tanker is a safety concern and is not designed to carry water. It has been on the capital plan because of the safety concerns. The Town never got funding for a grant. We are here to ask the Board for their approval. CIPC received agreed as well. This ballot includes the Pumper Truck, Tanker Truck and the construction of a new DPW facility.

Mr. Spinney stated that he has a couple of concerns about the DPW Building stating that he would like to know what a new building will cost to run and maintain over its lifetime and what will we be paying for, such as heating lighting and keeping up with the order of conditions from con-com. The Public needs to know what the ramifications are.

Mr. McInerney stated John Bechard, Chairman of the DPW Building Committee has an analyses, but it is not here.

Mr. Spinney asked what the plans are for growing the Department of Public Works. Will we hire a couple diesel mechanics? We have been pumping a lot of money into the DPW for new trucks. What are the plans for that organization? Mr. Spinney stated that he would like and idea of how things will be in 2018 and 2019 and further stated that he would not stand of the way of a new building, If the people want it.

Mr. Willardson stated that we don't have Weston and Sampson numbers; they said the return on the building will take 33 years of operations to get a return.

Mr. Spinney asked what the Town will do about the current building if this doesn't pass. What is the plan? Is there an alternative? Or are we going back the drawing board only to come back with the same thing. Mr. Spinney stated he doesn't see this passing and it does the DPW a disservice.

Mr. Padgett stated that it is a need the DPW has. The DPW Building committee will make their presentations. If people don't think it's a good idea we will have to come back with something maybe smaller. Mr. McInerney will have to find the money to run the new building if it passes.

Mr. McInerney stated that we have a good staff and personnel; there will never be a time when we will have to spend a great deal of money to replace equipment. If we want to hire more staff we can look at that.

Mr. McInerney stated that the town will have to invest a minimum of \$5M to bring the current building up to speed.

Mr. Flynn stated there are so many questions about this building that people have, it's been a 15 year project now. There are a lot of questions as to where will it end and when will we stop spending. This project requires more than anything else a good explanation to the voters as to how the building will be built without affecting the public. This needs to be explained better than it has already. These are the kinds of things that the board needs to have addressed by now. The project is not something that comes to the town by the Building Committee, but by the Selectmen.

Mr. Flynn stated that he doesn't think this should go forward if the Board cannot recommend this.

Ms. Thomas asked Fire Chief Gauthier to address the Board.

Chief Gauthier stated that the fuel tanker was in the military, the fire department acquired it in 1993. This is not a true tanker; the fire fighters made this into a tank and did not use tax payer's money. In 2002 it was repowered. This truck was not designed to be a firetruck. It will need to be replaced with a vacuum tanker for the fire service and can be run by 1 or 2 personnel. The new truck will be able to suck water out of a pond at a rate of 1 -1.5 thousand gallons per minute and one person can operate it. With the current vehicle we have to try to create a draft that takes more time to fill. Then it can take 20 -25 mins to get back to the site.

Mr. Flynn asked why would the fire trucks need to be paid for out of debt exclusion and not free cash. Mr. McInerney stated that CIPC vetted the list. These trucks were 5 or 6 from the top. The Town does not have enough money to do everything.

Mr. Flynn stated that if we put this in as debt exclusion and it fails, the town will be going to go a year without it. We are talking about not having enough water if there is a fire. Mr. Flynn stated that he will agree to the debt exclusion if it's the only way.

Mr. McInerney stated that you could go back in October and deplete free cash or stabilization. Mr. Flynn if it doesn't pass as debt exclusion can we have it f come out of stabilization or free cash.

Mr. Padgett asked if it was possible to do half debt exclusion. Mr. Willardson stated it would be fine. Bonding costs will be insignificant.

Mr. Spinney if you lease are you deferring some capital projects. Mr. McInerney stated that the leases roll off of debt exclusion 2018.

Mr. Spinney asked if we are going for debt exclusion every year. The problem with these, we are relying on a 2/3 vote. At a certain point people are going to start to say no. If we are not looking at a feasible way to do this, why aren't we looking to make a significant impact?

Mr. Padgett stated that all of those things are coming up, do you want people to go for bond? Mr. Spinney said yes and further stated that each year you put things on there you are blowing away the capital list, we can't afford everything on the list by taking care of the Fire Department.

Mr. Flynn asked why don't we just fund some of these things and then put together a multi-year plan. Let's move the issue today, as we are talking about town meeting in a couple of weeks. This is a need, let's do it. Don't go to the town to make a decision that the Selectmen should be making. If we need this to protect the town lets pay for it.

Mr. Flynn asked what happens if this doesn't pass debt exclusion. Mr. McInerney stated that we can go stabilization in October. Mr. Flynn stated he has no problem with paying for the fire trucks out of the stabilization.

Mr. Spinney stated that we can't go back to the warrant and change it to the stabilization fund.

Mr. McInerney stated that the motion could be amended for these three on Town Meeting floor. The Town Clerk would then be instructed to not print the ballot.

Mr. Padgett made a motion to sign the Town Warrant Ballot. Mr. Flynn seconded. All were in favor

Vote to Sign Peregrine Energy Contract

Mr. Padgett made a motion to sign the Peregrine Energy Contract. Mr. Spinney seconded. All were in favor.

Vote to Sign Direct Solar Contract

Mr. McInerney explained that there was an RFP sent out with only one respondent, Direct Solar. Mr. McInerney stated that Direct Solar offers a price of 325 per watt and

offer financing options and have a 10 year workmanship guarantee and backed by a \$30B company. They are partnered with the town of Sutton as well to solarize with both communities. The driving force is to save people money. The goal is to have 100 systems installed before the winter as there is a financial benefit to do this. We could reduce the cost of the municipal center if we use solar. There are details about condos and businesses, people should be diligent and become educated and speak to other vendors. Direct Solar will deliver 120 days after they a contract is signed. The town will tell people to shop around but Direct Solar is our preferred vendor. Mr. McInerney introduced Jill Appel of Direct Solar.

Ms. Jill Appel of Direct Solar addressed the Board and stated that there have been some changes in legislation. The Solar renewal energy certificates have been extended. Ms. Appel feels this is the best year to go solar. The next program that the DOER will offer will be less generous. The Town has saved a typical home owner almost \$5k. For example, system that would have cost \$24,375 it now costs \$12,650. The consumer will save approx. \$1,320 per year. Next year things are going to change.

The state introduced a new loan program with 20% loan program. It will be an extraordinary benefit to offer to the Town. There will be marketing support and should not have to use any towns funds. Doreen Defazio (Energy Committee) is all on board.

Energy production gets sent to the state, and then the consumer gets a check from the state. The company will do free Solar Energy Renewable Certificates (SREC) for 5 years.

Mr. Spinney asked if the 20% Discount is for businesses. Ms. Appel stated yes. Mr. Spinney what can you do with excess power. Ms. Appel stated that If you over produce and continue to run a credit, National Grid will never going to send you a check but you can also do z scheduling, for example, you can send your credits to your neighbor church, as long as you are in the load zone.

Mr. Spinney made a motion to sign the Direct Solar Contract. Mr. Flynn seconded. All were in favor.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Willardson stated that this week is national volunteer week and thanked the Board of Selectmen for their service.

Mr. McInerney and Mr. Willardson will be putting together a tape on the warrant that will run on GCTV.

The Grafton Road Race is May 7th

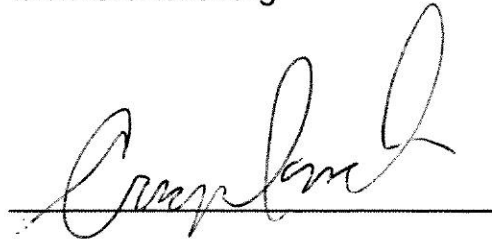
Grafton Cleanup Day is April 30th the Grafton Garden Club is sponsoring this event.

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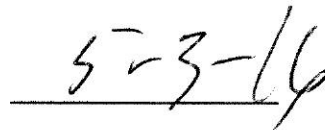
Adjourn

8:12 PM Mr. Spinney made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Padgett seconded. All were in favor.

For more information, this and other meetings can be viewed on Grafton Television.
www.Graftontv.org



Craig Dauphinais - Chairman



Date



Laura St. John-Dupuis, Recording Secretary